

State Drops Seven Charges On Bremer

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (AP)— Maryland authorities Wednesday dropped seven of the 24 charges placed against Arthur Herman Bremer for the attempted assassination of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace and the wounding of three other persons May 15.

The action was announced by State's Atty. Arthur Marshall of Prince Georges County at the start of a hearing on a series of pre-trial motions filed by Benjamin Lipsitz, Bremer's court-appointed lawyer from Baltimore.

Bremer, a 21-year-old former busboy and assistant elementary school janitor from Milwaukee, still faces federal charges of shooting Wallace and wounding Nicholas Zarvos, a Secret Service bodyguard.

Dropped by Marshall were four counts of attempted murder of Wallace, Zarvos, campaign worker Mrs. Dora Thompson and Alabama state police Capt. E. C. Dothard and three counts of illegally carrying a handgun.

The prosecutor told county Circuit Court Judge Ralph Powers that the attempted murder accusations legally duplicated four charges of assault with intent to murder.

The former charge is a common law misdemeanor carrying no specific penalty. The latter

is a felony with a maximum sentence of 15 years.

Marshall said he was dropping the handgun charges—lodged under Maryland's new gun control law—because an identical charge remained and that a person could be convicted of this only once from a single incident. Bremer, who did not attend the hearing, still faces charges of assault and battery and assault with intent to maim the four victims and four counts of illegally using a .38-caliber revolver.

Marshall said the remaining 17 charges carry a maximum combined sentence of 123 years in prison.

Powers ruled on several minor procedural motions but held in abeyance disposition of Lipsitz' key request for a delay in the start of the state trial.

The judge said, however, that he thought the July 12 starting date was well within the Circuit Court's rules requesting prosecutors to go to trial within six weeks on an arrest or indictment.

"We have been doing this for some years," Powers told the defense lawyer. "We didn't start it with this case. This case isn't any different."

The hearing also produced indications that Marshall and U.S. Atty. George Beall may have resolved the question of

whether Bremer would be tried first in the county court or U.S. District Court in Baltimore.

Beall's has scheduled a trial date of July 17, and Lipsitz contended earlier that it appeared the two jurisdictions were fighting over which would get the suspect first.

The FBI has custody of Bremer under heavy guard at the Baltimore County Jail about 50 miles north of Upper Marlboro. Lipsitz had questioned whether he would be released to state authorities for trial.

"I have been assured by George Beall he will cooperate with state authorities in the production of Arthur Bremer and any evidence we need," Marshall said.

"The indication given me by Mr. Beall was that the federal government won't be ready to proceed" on July 17, the prosecutor stated.

The U.S. Attorney, along with Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst and Thomas Farrow, agent in charge of the FBI's Baltimore office, had been subpoenaed by Lipsitz to testify at Wednesday's hearing.

They did not appear, but Powers declined to press the matter, saying that a representative of the federal government could appear when the hearing on the delay motion resumes next Wednesday.